

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows:

1. to 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) An electric potential measuring device, comprising:

a torsion spring;

an oscillating body axially supported by the torsion spring such that the oscillating body oscillates about the torsion spring;

~~a at least one~~ detection electrode provided on the oscillating body;

a driver that varies ~~means for varying~~ a distance between the detection electrode and an electric potential measuring object disposed facing the detection electrode by causing the oscillating body to oscillate; and

signal ~~detector detecting means~~ connected to the detection electrode for detecting an output signal

wherein lines of electric force from the electric potential measuring object reach the detection electrode at all times while the oscillating body is oscillating.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The electric potential measuring device according to Claim 7, further comprising:

another detection electrode provided on the oscillating body, wherein two detection-electrodes are disposed at positions on both sides across a central a rotational axis about around which the oscillating body oscillates lies substantially between the detection electrodes, on the surface of the oscillating body; in order that output signals containing information of different phases and amplitudes appear on the detection electrodes.

10. (Currently Amended) The electric potential measuring device according to Claim 9, wherein the signal detector detecting means performs signal detection by use of a difference between the two output signals outputted from the detection electrodes.

11. (Currently Amended) The electric potential measuring device according to Claim 7, wherein a surface of the oscillating body is one of a planar surface, a convex spherical surface, a convex cylindrical surface whose generating line is parallel to ~~[[the]]~~ an oscillation central axis, and a roof-shaped surface whose edge line is parallel to the oscillation central axis.

12. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
the electric potential measuring device according to Claim 7; and  
image forming means,

wherein a surface of the oscillating body of the electric potential measuring device is disposed facing a surface of an electric potential measuring object of the image forming means, and wherein the image forming means controls an image forming process by using the signal detection result from the electric potential measuring device.

13. (Currently Amended) An electric potential measuring device, comprising:

a torsion spring;

an oscillating body axially supported by the torsion spring such that the oscillating body oscillates about the torsion spring;

a pair of detection electrodes provided on the oscillating body such that a rotational axis around which the oscillating body oscillates lies substantially between the detection electrodes; and

a driver that varies ~~means for varying~~ a distance between the detection electrodes and an electric potential measuring object disposed facing the detection electrodes by causing the oscillating body to oscillate,

wherein the oscillating body is caused to oscillate such that when one of the pair of detection electrodes ~~comes close to~~ moves toward the electric potential measuring object, the other one of the pair of detection electrodes ~~goes~~ moves away from the electric potential measuring object.

14. (Currently Amended) An electric potential measuring method, comprising the steps of:

preparing an electric potential measuring device comprising an oscillating body axially supported by a torsion spring such that the oscillating body oscillates about the torsion spring, a at least one detection electrode provided on the oscillating body, and a signal ~~detector~~ detecting means connected to the detection electrode for detecting an output signal;

arranging the electric potential measuring device such that the detection electrode faces an electric potential measuring object;

varying a distance between the detection electrode and the electric potential measuring object by causing the oscillating body to oscillate; and

detecting an output signal with the signal ~~detector, detecting means~~  
wherein lines of electric force from the electric potential measuring object reach the detection electrode at all times while the oscillating body is oscillating.

15. (Currently Amended) An electric potential measuring method, comprising the steps of:

preparing an electric potential measuring device comprising an oscillating body axially supported by a torsion spring such that the oscillating body oscillates about the torsion spring, a pair of detection electrodes provided on the oscillating body such that a rotational axis around which the oscillating body oscillates lies substantially between the ~~detection electrodes~~, and a signal ~~detector~~ detecting means connected to the detection electrodes for detecting an output signal;

arranging the electric potential measuring device such that the detection electrodes face an electric potential measuring object;

varying a distance between the detection electrodes and the electric potential measuring object by causing the oscillating body to oscillate such that when one of the pair of detection electrodes comes close to moves toward the electric potential measuring object, the other one of the pair of detection electrodes goes moves away from the electric potential measuring object; and

detecting an output signal with the signal ~~detecting means~~ detector.